

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2% (1,966) of these admissions reside in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. 4.8% (95) of admissions from the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 70% were male and 30% were female.
- 55% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 92% were white non-Latino, 2% were black non-Latino, 4% were Latino and 4% were other racial categories.
- 63% were never married, 17% were married, and 21% reported not to be married now.
- 21% of admissions had less than high school education, 49% completed high school, and 29% had more than high school education.
- 42% were employed.
- 5% were homeless.
- 38% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	51%	33%	7%	2%	1%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,463	1,150	452	366	270	507	394
FY '96	1,395	1,143	471	337	217	484	331
FY '97	1,615	1,279	550	354	212	542	393
FY '98	1,697	1,268	504	348	199	686	496
FY '99	1,653	1,287	555	356	170	654	517
FY '00	1,841	1,411	544	379	144	667	501
FY '01	1,779	1,331	525	327	139	678	480
FY '02	1,966	1,462	569	375	138	733	517

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

